

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KEEL**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	15
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	18
Litter Control	40	21
Tidiness	20	8
Residential Areas	30	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	16
General Impression	10	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>124</b>

## **Adjudicator's Comments**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Welcome to the Tidy Towns! Unfortunately, there were no plans submitted, no replies to questionnaire and no map. These items are necessary to explain what you want the adjudicators to look at.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Keel Strand is the most important amenity area, and attracts numerous visitors to the town. In this regard the wildlife and flora along the seashore should be protected and developed. The dunes are eroding. Plan with the County Council to address the car parking on the dune areas.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Down by the playground, planting and seating are required. Hedging could be provided around the tennis courts and football pitch. Planting around the town name sign would also be advantageous. There is plenty of scope for tree planting and the use of floral displays throughout the town.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a problem with excessive signage in the town. You should contact the local tourism officer to co-ordinate this. There are too many advertising signs along the main road which makes the town look cluttered and untidy. There are few signs As Gaeilge, and this should be considered in future planning. Plastic signage is very evident and more traditional shopfronts are desirable for such a small rural community. Another area of concern is the appearance of the caravan parks. You should obtain advice from the County Council on the blending of tourist facilities with the natural environment. The stone walls are a tremendous amenity, and you should obtain assistance from FAS in their renovation. The Beehive coffee shop looked well, as did the Art Gallery across from it, with their colourful planting outside.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

You need to develop a strategy for the placement of litter bins throughout the town. There was litter visible opposite the Annexe Inn and on Keel Bay approach road. There was good litter control along the Strand area.

### **TIDINESS**

There was generally a good standard of tidiness through the Town. However, the dumping of soil and rubble in the wetland marsh at Keel Strand is a serious problem which needs to be addressed.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Some houses are presented to a high standard with good gardens, yet some have not been well maintained over the past number of years. You should consider forming a residents association. The house next to the Annexe Inn was very well presented and will set a standard for others.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Mulranny road is in need of some careful planning. Again signage is a problem; it is generally profuse and messy. Many of the fences are in poor repair. The town sign is in need of painting. Along Keel Bay road the grass verges are not mown. Again the town sign needs paint and overgrown stone walls need attention. A picnic area and overlook to Keel strand below would look well here.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This is your first year in the competition and you have much to do. Try to develop a plan for 3 year implementation. You have wonderful scenery and amenities. The built environment requires serious attention, and you should try to get more people and local businesses involved in your efforts. We look forward to seeing great progress in the town in the years ahead!